

EAST LONGMEADOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

180 Maple Street
East Longmeadow, MA. 01028-2788



Achievement

Accountability

Gordon C. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

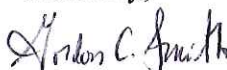
Later this spring the East Longmeadow Public Schools will be participating in a field test of the new assessment developed by the Partnership for Assessment of College and Career Readiness (PARCC). East Longmeadow will join over 357 districts and 1097 schools across Massachusetts, all of which have been chosen to take part in this field test. I have enclosed a letter from Mitchell Chester, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, providing more information on state assessment and the PARCC Assessment specifically. The PARCC Assessment incorporates the Common Core State Standards to which Massachusetts and 44 other states along with the District of Columbia have transitioned. On the PARCC Assessment students engage in more rigorous questions, problems, and performance-based tasks requiring higher order thinking ultimately resulting in a better measure of a student's ability to think, write, and problem solve. In future years, the PARCC Assessment could replace the MCAS Exam as the state assessment. The state Board of Education will vote in the fall of 2015 on whether to fully implement PARCC as the Commonwealth's student assessment program after a two-year pilot of the PARCC Assessment.

The field test will involve specific grades at four of the schools. Every school with the exception of Meadow Brook will have at least one class participating in the field test. A Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and an End-of-the-Year Assessment (EOY) will be piloted. Both assessments will have computer-based versions (CBT) and paper and pencil versions (PPT). A table showing the number of classes participating at each school is included at the end of this letter. The actual classes taking the PARCC Assessment will be selected randomly using a selection process developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the assessment company. Classes that are selected for the pilot are not able to "opt out" of the pilot. The District is required to submit all of its information on participation in the pilot to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

All students across the district will take the MCAS Exams this spring as they have in the past. **Students in grades 4 through 6 who are taking a session of the Performance-Based Assessment in math or ELA will be exempt from taking that same subject in the MCAS exams. This will be a very small number of students, and these students will take all the other sections of the MCAS Exam.**

Parents and students will find more information on the District's web page under the link entitled PARCC. Resources are posted there for people to learn more about the PARCC Assessment. Please visit the District web page at <http://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/index.aspx?nid=170> and learn more about the PARCC Assessment.

Sincerely,



Gordon C. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

ELPS PARCC Field Test Participation

School	Grade Level	Subject	# Classes	Test Mode	Test Type	# of Sessions
MS	5	Math	2	CBT	PBA	2
MV	4	ELA	2	CBT	PBA & EOY	PBA= 3 EOY=2
BP	6	ELA	2	PPT	PBA	3
BP	7	Math	2	PPT	EOY	2
HS	9	ELA	3	CBT	EOY	2
HS	11	ELA	4	CBT	PBA	3